CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for maintaining synchronization of ledger
accounts between a back-end procurement system and a front-
end requisition and catalog system, comprising the steps of:

associating a plurality of companies within a company
group, the companies within said group using the same
chart of accounts;

maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement
system;

periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,
account identification indicia and descriptive
information for a given company;

communicating said indicia and information to said
requisition and catalog system;

14   at said requisition and catalog system, storing said

15   indicia and information in a data store of valid

16   general ledger accounts associated with said company

17   group for said given company.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

2   associating commodity codes with said account

3   identification indicia; and

4   pushing commodity code/account identification

5   associations to all other companies in the company

6   group of said given company.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

2   responsive to a user request for a requisition of a

3   commodity, providing a selection list of valid account

4   codes and descriptions authorized for purchase by users

5   from companies within said company group.

1   4.   A procurement accounting system, comprising:

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2   a back-end procurement system;

3   a front-end requisition and catalog system;

4   a first chart of accounts store maintained in said
5   procurement system;

6   a second chart of accounts maintained in said
7   requisition and catalog system;

8   an extract utility at said procurement system for
9   periodically extracting from said first chart of
10   accounts, account identification indicia and
11   descriptive information for a given company;

12   an update utility at said requisition and catalog
13   system for associating said account identification
14   indicia with commodity codes and company group codes;
15   and

16   a data store for storing said indicia and information.

1   5.   The system of claim 4, further comprising:

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2   a company group table for storing company identifiers

3   associated with each of a plurality of company group

4   codes.

1   6.   The system of claim 5, said update utility further for

2 pushing to all companies within a company group code the

3 associations of commodity codes and account identification

4 indicia entered for a given company within said company

5 group codes.

1   7.   The system of claim 6, further comprising:

2   an output device responsive to a user request for a

3   purchase of a commodity for displaying a selection list

4   of valid account codes and descriptive information for

5   said company group code.

1   8.   A program storage device readable by a machine,

2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a

3 machine to perform method steps for maintaining

4 synchronization of ledger accounts between a back-end

5 procurement system and a front-end requisition and catalog

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6   system, said method steps comprising:

7   associating a plurality of companies within a company

8   group, the companies within said group using the same

9   chart of accounts;

10   maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement

11   system;

12   periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,

13   account identification indicia and descriptive

14   information for a given company;

15   communicating said indicia and information to said

16   requisition and catalog system;

17   at said requisition and catalog system, storing said

18   indicia and information in a data store of valid

19   general ledger accounts associated with said company

20   group code for said given company.

1   9.   A computer program product or computer program element

2   for maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts between a

3   back-end procurement system and a front-end requisition and

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4   catalog system according to method steps comprising:

5   associating a plurality of companies within a company

6   group, the companies within said group using the same

7   chart of accounts;

8   maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement

9   system;

10   periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,

11   account identification indicia and descriptive

12   information for a given company;

13   communicating said indicia and information to said

14   requisition and catalog system;

15   at said requisition and catalog system, storing said

16   indicia and information in a data store of valid

17   general ledger accounts associated with said company

18   group code for said given company.